



Brussels, 8.8.2022
C(2022) 5828 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.8.2022

**approving the programme “Education” for support from the European Social Fund+
under the Investment for jobs and growth goal in Bulgaria**

CCI 2021BG05SFPR001
(ONLY THE BULGARIAN TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy¹, and in particular Article 23(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 24 June 2022, Bulgaria submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, the programme “Education” for support from the European Social Fund+ (‘ESF+’) under the Investment for jobs and growth goal in Bulgaria.
- (2) The programme was prepared by Bulgaria in cooperation with the partners referred to in Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.
- (3) The programme contains all the elements referred to in Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and was prepared in accordance with the model set out in Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.
- (4) In accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the programme sets out Bulgaria’s assessment of the fulfilment of the horizontal enabling conditions and the thematic enabling conditions linked to the selected specific objectives for this programme.
- (5) In accordance with Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, the Commission assessed the programme and did not make any observations pursuant to paragraph 2 of that Article. Nevertheless, the Member State provided supplementary information and submitted a revised programme on 28 July 2022.
- (6) The Commission concluded that the programme complies with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and with Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council², is consistent with the Partnership Agreement of Bulgaria and takes into

¹ OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

account relevant country-specific recommendations, relevant challenges identified in the integrated national energy and climate plan, and the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

- (7) Pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 86(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, this Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council³. It is nevertheless necessary to specify the elements needed to make the budgetary commitments with respect to the programme in this Decision.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, it is necessary to fix for each priority the co-financing rate and the maximum amount of support from the Funds. It is also necessary to specify whether the co-financing rate for the priority applies to total contribution, including public contribution. For priorities that concern more than one category of regions, it is also necessary to fix the co-financing rate by category of region.
- (9) This Decision is without prejudice to the Commission's position regarding compliance of any operation supported under the programme with the State aid rules applicable at the time when the support is granted.
- (10) The programme should therefore be adopted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The programme "Education" for support from the ESF+ under the Investment for jobs and growth goal in Bulgaria for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, submitted in its final version on 28 July 2022, is hereby approved.

Article 2

1. The maximum amount of support from the ESF+ and, where applicable, for each category of region for the whole programming period and by year, is set out in Annex I
2. The maximum amount of support for the programme is set at EUR 786 795 000,00, to be financed from the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2022:
07 02 01.01: EUR 630 989 855,00 (ESF+ - Less developed regions);
07 02 01.02: EUR 155 805 145,00 (ESF+ - Transition regions).
3. The co-financing rate for each priority by category of regions is set out in Annex II. The co-financing rate for each priority shall apply to total contribution, including public contribution.

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

Article 3

All the enabling conditions for the programme are fulfilled.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 8.8.2022

For the Commission
Věra JOUROVÁ
Vice-President